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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EUR-25 IO-13 OMB-01 RSR-01 /129 W
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R 071831Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
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INFO CINCLANT NORVA

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PGOV BF
SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: NASSAU 962

1. SIR MILO BECOMES GRASSROOTS GOVERNOR-GENERAL

SIR MILO B. BUTLER, SR. WAS SWORN IN AUGUST 1 AS THE FIRST NATIVE BAHAMIAN GOVERNOR-GENERAL. IN A HALTING, EMOTIONAL SPEECH, SIR MILO STRESSED HIS CHARACTER AS A "MAN OF THE SOIL", HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE STRUGGLES OF BLACK BAHAMIANS, AND HIS RELIANCE ON RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES. FOR REASONS WHICH HE SAID WERE OBVIOUS, SIR MILO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD NO LONGER WEAR THE TRADITIONAL PLUMAGE AND ATTIRE OF ROYAL GOVERNORS ON CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS. THE SWEARING-IN WAS A CEREMONY OF POMP, SWEAT AND CIRCUMSTANCE AS PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS BASTED IN THE HUMID AUGUST SUN. THE GOOD- NATURED CROWDS SWARMING OVER THE GROUNDS OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S RESIDENCE AT A RECEPTION THAT EVENING WERE REMINISCENT OF STORIES OF ANDREW JACKSON'S INAUGURAL AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND MARKED THE END OF AN ERA OF PRIVILEGE AND THE ADVENT OF POPULISM AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.
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2. PERMANENT SECRETARY CHANGES

ONE OF THE NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FIRST ACTS WAS TO APPROVE, ON THE PM'S ADVICE, THE TRANSFER OF SEVERAL PERMANENT SECRETARIES. DPM ARTHUR HANNA'S PERMANENT SECRETARY ON SPECIAL DUTY, BALTRON B. BETHEL, WILL MOVE TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO REPLACE HUGH SANDS, WHOSE RESIGNATION WAS REPORTED REFTEL. ANTIGUA-BORN C. P. ERSKING-LINDOP, WHO CONTRARY TO REFTEL HAS NOT RESIGNED, WILL REPLACE BRITISH-BORN A. K. WRIGHT AT THE MINISTRY OF WORKS. ERSKINE-LINDOP'S TRANSFER LEAVES THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WITHOUT A PERMANENT SECRETARY, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD THAT HIS DEPUTY, MRS. M. MACDONALD, WILL SUCCEED HIM. MRS. BEVERLY WHITFIELD WILL LEAVE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO BECOME SIR MILO'S PRIVATE SECRETARY AT GOVERNMENT HOUE, AN APPOINTMENT WHICH HAS AROUSED SOME MALE-CHAUVENIST COMMENT. HAROLD MUNNINGS, COORDINATOR OF THE INDEPENDENCE SECRETARIAT, IS TRANSFERRED TO THE MINISTRY (SIC) OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

3. LLP NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE PLP NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD ON GRAND BAHAMA IN OCTOBER. THIS MARKS THE FIRST TIME SUCH A MEETING HAS BEEN HELD OUTSIDE NEW PROVIDENCE.
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